WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus having a confidential print function of executing print jobs transmitted from a data output device in order of receipt and holding print jobs designated in advance until password entry, the printing apparatus comprising

a queue management unit for executing, when passwords for held confidential print jobs are entered, said confidential print jobs in order of password entry, in preference to awaiting normal print jobs which require no password entry.

2. The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said queue management unit stores received confidential print jobs into a queue with a print hold status, moves a password-entered confidential print job to the end of print jobs stored in said queue, and executes confidential print jobs in order of release of said print hold status through password entry.

3. The printing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, comprising time keeping means for keeping a predetermined time from the execution of a confidential print job to the execution of the next confidential print job, wherein

said queue management unit having completed a confidential print job, executes the next confidential print job at least after a lapse of said predetermined time kept by said time keeping means.

4. The printing apparatus according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said queue management unit has a pointer for indicating the end of confidential print jobs stored in said queue.

5. The printing apparatus according to any one of claims 1-4,

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wherein said queue management unit has a pointer for indicating the end of normal print jobs stored in said queue.

6. The printing apparatus according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said queue management unit stores confidential print jobs into the top side of a single queue, stores normal print jobs into behind said confidential print jobs, and has pointers both at the end of said confidential print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs.